

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Kruzan

A RESOLUTION honoring the life and memory of Ira Wilmer "Will" Counts, a nationally distinguished photojournalist and teacher, for his contributions to photojournalism and the citizens of our great nation.

Whereas, Ira Wilmer Counts, better known as Will, was born August 24, 1931, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and died October 6, 2001, at his Bloomington, Indiana, home;

Whereas, Will Counts, a graduate of Little Rock High School and the University of Central Arkansas, earned a master's degree and doctorate from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana;

Whereas, Will Counts worked as a photographer-editor for



The Arkansas Democrat and the Associated Press in Chicago, Illinois, and Indianapolis, Indiana, before joining the faculty of Indiana University's School of Journalism in 1963;

Whereas, Will Counts was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1957 for the images he caught as tensions rose at Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, in the midst of a violent desegregation battle;

Whereas, Will Counts' Pulitzer Prize-nominated photograph was taken on Labor Day in 1957 and later named one of the top 100 photographs of the century by the Associated Press;

Whereas, The winning photograph was an image of Elizabeth Eckford, a black girl, walking alone along Park Street with a crowd of jeering white people in her wake. Included in this photo was Hazel Bryan, the white student seen screaming at Eckford;

Whereas, In 1997, Will and his wife Vivian were able to bring about a reconciliation between Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine and the principal target of the segregationist mob, and Hazel Bryan Massery, healing the wounds of 40 years;

Whereas, Will Counts' photograph of the two women as they met and embraced in front of their old school became a highlight of his career with pictures of both incidents appearing in his book, A Life Is More Than A Moment, published in 1999 by the Indiana University Press;

Whereas, Will Counts developed and directed the visual sequence in the Indiana University School of Journalism, increasing enrollment from eight students in 1963 to 80 in 1995;

Whereas, Will Counts and John Ahlhauser were instrumental in developing the Indiana University photojournalism program into one of the best in the country;

Whereas, As a testament to Will Counts' teaching ability,



his students have gone on to win recognition for themselves, including seven Pulitzer Prizes among six former students;

Whereas, Will Counts successfully encouraged his students to be creative, express themselves, and seek a broad education that would serve their goals and their passion for photography;

Whereas, Will Counts, journalism professor emeritus, taught at Indiana University for 32 years, retiring in 1995;

Whereas, Will Counts' work appeared in A Photographic Legacy, Arkansas Photographs from the FSA Collection, Monroe County In Focus, The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses, and A Life Is More Than A Moment;

Whereas, Will Counts was selected to the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame in 1996 and received a Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Evan Bayh, two awards from the National Press Photographers Association, and an Indiana Associated Press Award for his distinguished contributions to journalism; and

Whereas, Will Counts' personal vision and passion for photography and journalism have contributed greatly to present and future generations: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives wishes to
2 acknowledge the many contributions of Ira Wilmer "Will" Counts to
3 Indiana University, the state of Indiana, and the nation. He will be
4 missed by all who knew him.

5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to his wife
7 Vivian, his two children Wyatt Milton Counts and Claudia Counts, and
8 his two stepchildren Robert Paul McRae and Katherine Rice McRae
9 Lattimer.

